

Zero-to-Three NEWS

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The Early Intervention Section of the State Department of Health provides developmental services for any eligible child from birth to three years of age in five areas: physical, cognitive, communication, social or emotional, and adaptive.

Services are available on all islands and there is no cost to families.

For more information, please contact our Hawaii Keiki Information Services System (HKISS) referral and information line at 973-9633 for Oahu and 1-800-235-5477 for Neighbor Islands.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jennifer Schember-Lang

Early Intervention: What's Happening in Congress

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is currently before the U.S. Congress for review and reauthorization.



Significant changes are proposed in both the House bill (HR 1350) and in the Senate bill (S1248) that may affect how early intervention (EI)

services are administered nationally and locally.

On March 19, 2003, HR 1350, entitled "Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act of 2003" was introduced in the US House of Representatives (House). After hearings were held at the committee level and amendments were considered, HR 1350 passed out of the House by a vote of 251-171 on April 20, 2003. The House bill was sent to the US Senate (Senate).

On June 12, 2003, the Senate version of the reauthorization of the IDEA was introduced (S 1248). Any bill that ultimately passes the Senate will have to be compromised with HR 1350. If the House bill and Senate bills are different, a conference committee is appointed to work out the differences. The bill then passes out of conference and is sent back to both the House and Senate for final action and then to the President for action (approval or veto). If no bill passes the House and the Senate, the current law remains as is.

Some amendments now proposed in the House bill:

- Allows for early intervention services to be extended to children aged 3 through 5 who previously received EI services from the early intervention system and who are eligible for services from the Department of Education preschool program. If the state decides to extend EI services, then services must include an educational component that promotes school readiness and incorporates scientifically-based pre-literacy, language, and numeracy skills. There is no mention of funding;

- Adds "family therapy" to the list of early intervention services and vision specialist, including ophthalmologists and optometrists, to the list of providers of EI services;

- Specifies that EI services be designed to address **family-identified priorities and concerns** that are determined by an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team to relate to enhancing the child's development;

- Provides that services be conducted in the natural environment unless early intervention cannot be achieved *satisfactorily* in a natural environment or in a setting that is most appropriate, as determined by the parent and the IFSP team.; and

- Adds to IFSP goals (current term: outcomes) "pre-literacy and language skills as developmentally appropriate for the child."

For complete summary, see *Summary of House Passed Bill H.R. 1350*, the Council for Exceptional Children (June 2003) (<http://www.cec.sped.org>).

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Profile:

Dr. Linda Rosen, MD Deputy Director of Health Resources Administration

Congratulations to Linda Rosen, M.D. for being appointed to Deputy



Director of Health Resources Administration of the Department of Health (DOH). As Deputy Director, she will oversee 7 divisions and

programs which includes the Family Health Services Division (FHSD). Early Intervention Section is under FHSD.

Prior to her appointment, Rosen was working part-time as the Medical Director of FHSD while continuing her other duties as the State Emergency Medical Services Pediatric Medical Director.

A well-seasoned veteran of the medical system, Rosen came to DOH after spending 15 years as a board certified pediatric in emergency medicine at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. She has won accolades for her work, having been

Educational Background

BS University of California at Los Angeles
MD Baylor College of Medicine
MPH John Hopkins University
(current candidate)

named Outstanding Advocate for Children and Youth in 1997 and Emergency Physician of the Year in 1998. She was also active with Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii serving as co-chair as well as president of its board of directors.

Rosen's move to DOH and into public health from the medical system was a return to her childhood roots—her father was with the U.S. Public Health Service and her family traveled

extensively throughout the Pacific while he researched tropical medicine.

She states, "Public health is an underdeveloped area that is really essential to improving health." Rosen continues, "They [people] are turning to the medical system and saying, 'why don't those doctors do more prevention?'. But the current health care system is not a system that will produce the kinds of improvements in overall health that we want. It is primarily a disease detection and treatment system—a medical system. It's not about prevention and promoting health. A lot of things that are necessary for health are not paid for by medical insurance and you can't guarantee health with all these different social factors working against you no matter how good your medical system is."

As Deputy Director, Rosen intends to work at developing a structure of what she envisions as "modern public

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Marge Wada 30 years

Kudos to Marge Wada for dedicating 30 years to the Hawaii Department of

Health! Marge began her career as a speech therapist in the School Health Branch. For the past 25 years, she has been the Supervisor for the Early Childhood Services Program statewide. What are her current goals? She says, "To streamline and deliver the best quality of services."



JUST ASK MIKE

Dear Mike: I am sending my daughter to preschool this Fall. How do I know if a preschool is a good preschool? Is there a list that ranks preschools?

--Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent:

Research shows that a **high quality** preschool experience has many immediate and long-term benefits for children.

The most important factor is the level of **staff credentials and education**. Teachers with more relevant education can better respond to the wide range of individual differences found in children in any classroom. Well-

trained teachers are more likely to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to adjust the curriculum to meet each child's needs.

A second important factor is a **comprehensive, diverse, and age-appropriate curriculum**. A good preschool curriculum organizes learning in the context of play activities over the school year in a way that facilitates important learning for preschoolers. Following the plan over the year insures that a progressive accumulation of age-appropriate new knowledge and skills is achieved.

A third important factor is **well-designed, safe, and sufficient space** for children to engage in a variety of inside and outdoor activities. Cramped or unsafe safe cannot provide quality care and experience.

Last, the staffing patterns in classrooms should be aimed at maintaining a **small number of students per teacher in the classroom**. This is not only a safety issue, but it is essential if

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Randy's World by Randy Compton



SPIN Awards

Congratulations to Lisa Maetani for receiving the Family Choice Award at the 2003 Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) Conference Awards on



April 12th. Lisa, a social worker at the Early Intervention Section (EIS), was described as dedicating over 15 years of her professional career to persons with

special needs and having "a warm, compassionate spirit and a heart that belies her size." She has worked with numerous programs and projects that include the Developmental Disabilities Division's Family Support Services Program, the Statewide Respite Program, and the Kokua Keiki Diaper Project.

Also, congratulations to Arthur and Charlzetta Croker, a family who participated with EIS, for receiving one of the Parent of the Year Awards. The



Crokers have two sets of twins consisting of three girls and one boy. Three of the children have autism and the fourth has

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. The Crokers have been very attentive and active in learning how to best care and help their children and other children as well. Amid their busy schedule, they have participated and graduated from the 2002 PARTNERS in Policymaking Academy, advocated and was successful in changing library policy statewide for children who couldn't sign library cards, and have educated legislators about the needs of children and families.

Community Connections



L-R: Charmaine Miyamoto, Kelly Miyamoto, Jennifer Okimoto, Kristie Kagawa.



L-R: Louise Mata, Terry Manuel, Mindy Vuong.



Elaine Castro and Kay Sakai.



Susie Ota and Chet Taira.



L-R: Tricia Hoke, Yolanda Amerson, Suzie Hipp.



L-R: Judy Stevens, Bernie Cabiles, Cheryl Good, Ni Yen Ho.

Staff from the Early Intervention Section (EIS), the Early Childhood Services Program (ECSP), and our private providers was busy this year participating in promotional fairs and conferences to increase awareness about early intervention services. In January, EIS social workers **Gretchen Hahn** and **Dawn Fuller** handled a booth at the Hawaii Medical Services Association's "New Year, New You" fair at the State Capitol. Both EIS and ECSP, private providers, and families participated in the Every Child Deserves a Medical Home Conference held at Shriner's Hospital in February. In April, EIS and ECSP (see photos above) as well as our private providers participated in the statewide Parent/Child Fairs in April. Kauai Easter Seals had one of the more interactive booths (see social worker **Kay Sakai** above). Also in April, social workers **Lisa Maetani** and **Susie Ota** handled the EIS booth with Keiki Care Project Coordinator **Don Piburn** at the 2003 Special Parent Information Network Conference. And finally, EIS social workers and support staff (see photo above) volunteered to help manage the infant and toddler activity area (also known as "Kidz Town") at the New Baby Expo with The Institute for Family Enrichment, Sultan Easter Seals, and the Department of Health Perinatal Section.

(Chair's Message--cont. from page 1.)

The Senate proposal includes the following amendments:

- Adds a minimum criteria to the definition of developmental delay;
- Requires a statewide system that provides EI services in natural environments unless a *specific outcome* cannot be met; and
- Specifies that the IFSP include a statement of measurable outcomes expected for the child and family, including, as appropriate, pre-literacy and language skills and the criteria, procedures, and timelines to determine degree of progress. Also, the IFSP must include date for initiation of services and anticipated length, duration and frequency of services.

For a complete copy of the Senate bill, go to <http://health.senate.gov/> and select the "Schedule" page for access.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please feel free to call me or my staff at the Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii at 536-9684.

(Dr. Rosen--cont. from page 2.)

health with robust competencies." This includes a good understanding of the data being collected by DOH, asking the right questions, re-determining what data should be collected, and communicating information that was derived from the data in a competent way. Or, as Rosen puts it, "doing health education as we understand it now in terms of models of behavior change instead of the old-fashioned way."

Rosen is also looking at how current DOH programs can evaluate and improve their services. As a pediatrician, Rosen anticipates that EIS is always challenged because "hard science is much harder to come by in these areas" when evaluating the effectiveness of some health interventions. But, like all other programs, she advises EIS to "look hard at what you're doing, ask yourself if you are doing what you set out to do, and whether there is anyway to improve that and maximize on what you have."

(Just Ask Mike--cont. from page 2.)

children are to receive the individual attention they need.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditates early childhood programs. Please call our Hawaii Chapter at 949-4708 for this information. Also, please call Parents Attentive to Children (PATCH) at 839-1988 for a list of the preschools in your area.

Amy Valdez, the Project Coordinator of the Early Intervention Section (EIS) **Inclusion Project**, developed a brochure entitled "**How to Choose a Child Care Program: A Survival Plan for Parents Seeking Quality Child Care.**" Please contact her at 973-1113 for a copy of the brochure or if you have further questions.

Got a question? Write to Mike at Early Intervention Section, 1600 Kapiolani Blvd., #1401, Honolulu, HI 96814.

(Mike Compton is a psychologist with the Early Intervention Section. He is a parent of three children.)



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